

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CONAKR 00383 101443Z
ACTION SS-25

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P 101415Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2836

S E C R E T CONAKRY 0383

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS3
TAGS: PFOR PGOV GV UR
SUBJECT: US/GUINEA POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND TIMING
OF US MOVES ON PL-480 AND TU-95 DEPLOYMENTS

REF: CONAKRY 0287

1. DURING THREE SEPARATE CEREMONIES MARCH 4 AND 5 EMBASSY DELIVERED TO GOG MINISTRIES PALM-KERNEL CRACKING MACHINES AND SOCCER BALLS UNDER SELF-HELP AGREEMENTS PLUS PICK-UP TRUCKS AND MEDICAL VACCINATION EQUIPMENT UNDER SAHEL R&R AGREEMENT. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS' POLITICALLY INSPIRED DELAY, GOG UNEXPECTEDLY STAGED THESE CEREMONIES IN FLOURISH OF WARM SPEECHES AND IN PRESENCE NUMEROUS GUINEAN OFFICIALS, WHO IN ONE CASE ACTUALLY LED CROWD IN CHANT "VIVE LE PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER". OFFICIAL GOG RADIO HAS PROVIDED FAVORABLE PUBLICITY OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO MODESTY OF AID DELIVERIES. IN SPEECH BEFORE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MARCH 8, PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE PERSONALLY ANNOUNCED US GIFT OF FOOTBALLS FOR EACH OF GUINEA'S GRASSROOTS PARTY UNITS (PRL'S) AND SAID HE WOULD DISTRIBUTE FIRST BALLS TO THOSE PRL'S WITH BEST RECORD OF PARTY LOYALTY AND PRODUCTION. ON MARCH 10 GOG APPROVED EMBASSY USE OF CONAKRY PARTY MEETING HALL

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FOR AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY EXHIBIT.

2. SEKOU CAMARA (SECGEN STATE COMMITTEE FOR AMERICAS) SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT THIS SUDDEN DISPLAY OF GOOD WILL WAS INTENDED TO SIGNAL EMBASSY THAT A) STATE COMMITTEE WISHED COMMUNICATE ITS DESIRE TO THAW PRESENT COOL RELATIONS, B) THAT THIS WAS HARBINGER OF

GOOD US/GOG RAPPORT WHICH COULD BE REALIZED IN A "POST PL-480 CONTEXT" (E.E., SUBSEQUENT TO DELIVERY AGREED 10,000 MT RICE), AND C) THAT STATE COMMITTEE IN ANALYZING US AND GUINEAN VIEWPOINTS ON SECURITY QUESTIONS DID "NOT BELIEVE THERE WERE ANY FUNDAMENTAL CONTRADICTIONS" WHICH NEEDED TO BLOCK FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THESE ISSUES OR FUTURE ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

3. IN ADDITION, CAMARA SAID MOUNTAGA KEITA (GOG PL-480 TECHNICIAN) AND BEMO KEMOKO (FONOFF COOPERATION OFFICER) WERE PREPARED PROCEED WASHINGTON TO EXECUTE 23 SEPTEMBER 1976 TITLE I AGREEMENT WHENEVER USG WOULD ACCEPT SUCH DELEGATION. GOG, HE SAID, WAS ALSO STILL PREPARED TO SEND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON COMPOSED OF PM BEAVOGUI AND MINISTER MOUSSA DIAKITE TO "CLEAR AIR" REGARDING SOVIET MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IN GUINEA AS IT AFFECTS US/GUINEAN INTERESTS.

4. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: CURRENT TU-95 DEPLOYMENT, PROBABLY IN RELATION PURPORTED PANIC OVER BENIN RAID, IS THE LONGEST YET WITH RECORD NUMBER (SIX) INDIVIDUAL MISSIONS SO FAR. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT BELIEVE FOR A MINUTE THAT GOG INTENDS TO TURN OFF SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS AS SOON AS WE DELIVER RICE, GOG IF OBVIOUSLY EAGER TO GET OVER PRESENT CHILL IN RELATIONS WITH US AND OBVIOUSLY WANTS THE RICE. I BELIEVE IT MAKES SENSE TO RESPOND SOONER NOT LATER TO THESE OVERTURES ALONG LINES RECOMMENDED IN CONAKRY 0287. NOTE THAT ON 30 NOVEMBER 1976 ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE TOLD GUINEAN SECRET

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AMBASSADOR USG WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH GOG IN SEVERAL WEEKS TO ARRANGE DATES FOR A PL-480 MISSION EARLY IN 1977, AND I REPEATED THIS POSTIION TO PRIMIN. RECOMMEND I NOW BE AUTHORIZED TO WITHDRAW MY SEPTEMBER LETTER TO MOUSSA DIAKITE SUSPENDING PL-480 PURCHASING DELEGATION AND THAT I ALSO INVITE SENIOR GOG DELEGATION FOR POLITICAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON, BEARING IN MIND THAT DISCUSSION OF FURTHER PL-480 COMMODITIES WILL BE CONDITIONAL UPON GUINEAN PERFORMANCE SUBSEQUENT TO POLITICAL TALKS.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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